

**HB 2519 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Judiciary**

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**Prepared By:** Lucy Ohlsen, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/13

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Creates new misdemeanor of displaying human remains for profit, with exemptions for legitimate ceremonial and educational purposes; creates additional penalty of up to \$5,000 per day of violation . Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2021, a private company hosted a for-profit display of the dissection of a human body in downtown Portland. The body was donated by a World War II veteran, believing he was donating his body to science for medical research. After the event, Multnomah County adopted a ban prohibiting private companies from conducting this kind of for-profit event. Jurisdictions in Washington, California, and Hawaii have passed similar legislation.

House Bill 2519 would make it a misdemeanor for a person to accept payment or other consideration in exchange for displaying human remains to the public, with specified exemptions for legitimate ceremonial and educational purposes. A person who violates the prohibition would also be subject to a civil penalty imposed and collected by the State Mortuary and Cemetery Board of up to \$5,000 per day of violation.